

Appl. No. 10/713,857
Amdt. Dated October 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 89155.0002
Customer No. 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Claim 4 is amended. Claims 4-6 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a method for manufacturing a core mold for foam-molding to be used for foaming by steam heating a multitude of pre-expanded beads filled in a mold unit to produce a foam-molded article, provided with a concavo-convex pattern on its mold surface for forming a design pattern on the surface of the foam-molded article, and to the core mold manufactured by such a method. (Applicant's specification, at p. 1, lines 6-12).

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Office states,

"The terminology of claim 4, however, in reciting both a concavo-convex pattern and protrusions with no relation suggests that the two structures are distinct. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would not know the scope of the claims of the instant application, and thus, the claims are indefinite. For purposes of further evaluation of the claims on their merits in this Office Action, it will be assumed that the concavo-convex pattern forms the protrusions as described in the specification. Appropriate clarification and correction, however, is still required."

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In response, the Applicant amended claim 4 to clarify that the mold surface does not comprise the protrusions. The protrusions that are one part of the design pattern are formed on the surface of the foam-molded article by transferring the concavo-convex pattern of the mold surface. The Applicant amended claim 4 to recite "said concavo-convex pattern forms a multitude of protrusions on the surface of said foam-molded article". Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

The Office states, "Claims 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office Action."

As discussed above, the Applicant amended the claims in the manner suggested by the Office. Allowance of claims 4-6 is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments comply with requirements of form and thus may be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b). Alternatively, if these amendments are deemed to touch the merits, admission is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(c). In this connection, these amendments were not earlier presented because they are in response to the matters pointed out for the first time in the Final Office Action.

Lastly, admission is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) as presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los

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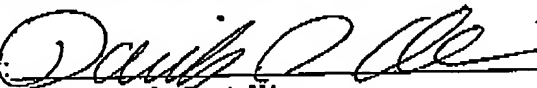
Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6809 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: October 18, 2005

By:



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